

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ABF-01 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 OMB-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: ICCS BUDGET

REFS: A. SAIGON 13208; B. SAIGON 13202; C. SAIGON 13074

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. DEPARTMENT HAS CONSIDERED CAREFULLY THE MATTER OF THE ICCS BUDGET AND HAS CONCLUDED THAT PRIOR TO USG APPROVAL AT DOLS 35 MILLION OR ANY OTHER LEVEL, AN EXHAUSTIVE EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET MUST BE UNDERTAKEN. GIVEN NEED FOR CLOSE LIAISON WITH ICCS SECRETARIAT IN THIS REGARD, WE SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE EMBASSY'S MAKING THIS REVIEW. SINCE THE DEPARTMENT PLANS AGAIN TO APPROACH CONGRESS FOR FUNDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER IT RECONVENES IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, THE EMBASSY REVIEW SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 25. SUGGEST BRIEF TELEGRAPHIC SUBMISSION WITH PARALLEL AIRGRAM PROVIDING FULL DETAILS.

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2. DEPARTMENT IS OF THE OPINION THAT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORI-

ZATION AND APPROPRIATION FOR ICCS CONTRIBUTIONS MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING UNLESS WE ARE ABLE TO JUSTIFY COMPLETELY THE ENTIRE BUDGET. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE APPROACH SEC GEN NUR WITH A STRONG REQUEST THAT HE PROVIDE PROMPTLY ALL DETAILS NECESSARY FOR THE REVIEW IN QUESTION. FOR EXAMPLE, IN SEEKING TO JUSTIFY A FIGURE SUCH AS THE NEARLY DOLS 7 MILLION FOR INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL, IT WILL BE INADEQUATE

TO STATE MERELY THAT THE DELEGATIONS BELIEVE THAT THE FIGURE IS FULLY WARRANTED (REF A). RATHER WE SHOULD SEE FIRM EVIDENCE, I.E. A REASONABLE NUMBER OF TRIPS TIMES THE AMOUNT PER TRIP, THAT AIR FARES FROM INCEPTION THROUGH MARCH 31, 1974 WOULD IN FACT TOTAL NEARLY DOLS 7 MILLION. IF THAT AMOUNT CANNOT BE SUPPORTED, THE BUDGET REQUEST FOR AIR FARES SHOULD BE LOWERED TO THAT AMOUNT WHICH CAN BE SUPPORTED. IN OTHER WORDS, WHILE SEEKING JUSTIFICATION FOR ALL AMOUNTS AND ACCEPTING THOSE WHICH CAN BE REASONABLY DOCUMENTED, THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO TRIM THE BUDGET WHEREVER LEGITIMATELY POSSIBLE WITHOUT CURTAILING ANY OF THE ESSENTIAL ICCS FUNCTIONS ENVISIONED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT. A FURTHER EXAMPLE WOULD BE A CRITICAL INQUIRY WHETHER THE COMMISSION REALLY NEEDS DOLS 10.6 MILLION FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION. COULD NOT GREATER RELIANCE BE PUT ON FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, AS OPPOSED TO HELICOPTERS, AND SURFACE TRAVEL AS OPPOSED TO AIR? SIMILARLY SINCE EMBASSY HAS SUGGESTED THAT DOLS 13 PER DAY FOOD ALLOWANCE COULD BE REDUCED (REF B), WE HOPE YOU MIGHT SUGGEST A REASONABLE, SMALLER AMOUNT. THE FOREGOING IS MERELY ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE KIND OF DETAILED AUDIT TO BE CARRIED OUT AND INFORMATION, ACROSS THE BOARD, WITH WHICH WE WILL NEED TO BE EQUIPPED BEFORE APPROACHING THE CONGRESS. WE HESITATE TO SUGGEST THAT EVERY FIGURE BE DOCUMENTED, BUT SEE IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH DOCUMENTATION FURTHER POTENTIAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE JULY 31 NEW YORK TIMES REPORT (BEING POUCHED) OF POLDEL PADDING THE RENT FOR THE DELEGATION LEADER'S VILLA. THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IS A SMALL DROP IN A 43 MILLION DOLLAR BUCKET, BUT IT COULD CAUSE US DIFFICULTIES IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS.

3. WE LEAVE TO THE EMBASSY'S DISCRETION WHETHER OR NOT THE
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REVIEW SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN JOINTLY WITH THE GVN. HOWEVER WE BELIEVE A JOINT-REVIEW HAS MERIT SINCE WE WOULD HOPE THE GVN WOULD JOIN US IN APPROVING THE BUDGET AT A YET TO BE DETERMINED LEVEL.

4. UPON RECEIPT EMBASSY'S SUBMISSION, DEPARTMENT WILL REVIEW AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR INFORMING ICCS OF BUDGET LEVEL APPROVED BY U.S.

5. AT THIS JUNCTURE, WE SENSE THAT IT WOULD BE A FRUIT-
LESS EXERCISE TO SEEK FOUR-PARTY AGREEMENT TO SPECIFIC
BUDGET LEVEL AND COMPOSITION. BELIEVE BEST WE CAN HOPE
FOR IS THAT DRV/PRG WILL APPROVE BUDGET AT APPROXIMATELY
SAME LEVEL AS US/GVN APPROVAL. YOUR COMMENT INVITED THIS
POINT. IN ANY CASE, HOPE ICCS SECRETARIAT WILL INDUCE
COMMUNIST PARTIES TO COMPLETE BUDGET REVIEW AND PROFFER
APPROVAL BY THE END OF AUGUST. ROGERS

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